

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: EB:JMDERHAM

APPROVED BY: EB:PHBOEKER ACTG

DIST: EB, ISO (ONLY)

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R 151601Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244680

FOR ASSISTANT SEC ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT TRIPOLI 1159 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
LONDON DTD 14 OCT

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG

SUBJECT: DISPUTE BETWEEN OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM AND
LIBYAN GOVERNMENT

1. MFA NORTH AMERICAN DIRECTOR SHAABAN ASKED CHARGE
TO SEE HIM LAST EVENING. HE SAID UNDERSECRETARY
DURDAH WANTED US TO KNOW THAT OCCIDENTAL
OFFICIALS IN U.S. HAS INSTRUCTED COMPANY HERE BY
TELEX TO SEND TWO AMERICAN AND TWO BRITISH CITIZENS
TO TRIPOLI AIRPORT AND DEMAND TO BE ALLOWED TO
DEPART LIBYA. ACCORDING TO SHAABAN'S INFO, IF FOUR
WERE DENIED EXIT, THEY WERE TO PROTEST TO AMERICAN
AND BRITISH EMBASSIES.

2. SHAABAN SAID THIS WAS PROVOCATION BY OCCIDENTAL,
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AND ATTEMPT BY COMPANY TO INVOLVE USG IN THE
DISPUTE. (SHAABAN WAS NOT WELL INFORMED ON OXY

QUESTION AND DID NOT KNOW WHEN THE INSTRUCTION
WAS GIVEN TO OXY OFFICIALS IN TRIPOLI.)

3. CHARGE SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD OF THIS
MATTER AND WOULD REPORT LARG'S CONCERN ABOUT
AVOIDING INVOLVING TWO GOVERNMENTS IN DISPUTE.
WE HOPED OXY EMPLOYEES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO COME
AND GO FREELY.

4. DURING MEETING WITH COMPANY OFFICIALS OCTOBER 14,
WE ASKED WHETHER COMPANY HAD MADE RECENT ATTEMPT
TO TEST THE RESTRICTIONS. OFFICIALS ADMITTED
FOUR PERSONS WOULD BE GOING TO AIRPORT THIS
AFTERNOON, BUT CLAIMED IT WAS ON THEIR
OWN INITIATIVE. WE ARE MORE INCLINED TO THINK
THESE ARE TWO AMERICAN AND TWO UK CITIZENS
SHAABAN MENTIONED.
STEIN UNQTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, PERSONNEL, DISPUTES, TRAVEL CONTROLS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE244680
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB:JMDERHAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750359-0143
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751055/aaaabwnm.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISPUTE BETWEEN OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM AND LIBYAN GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, LY, OCCIDENTAL OIL CORP
To: OECD PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006